

Start at home

Folded paper wristband



“The tactile qualities of paper play an important role in creating wearable objects.”

– Nel Linssen

About the artist

Dutch Jeweller Nel Linssen (1935-2016) used intricately-folded coloured paper to create vibrant wearable forms. Inspired by the botanical world, she constantly experimented to find different ways of constructing jewellery. Her paper works are textured and dynamic, displaying subtle shifts in colour and pattern. When worn, her pieces move with the body to reveal hidden colours and shadows.

About the work

A harmonious colour scheme gives *Bracelet* a sense of warmth and depth. The orange and pink folds flow into each other, creating the illusion of a glowing organic form. In other works, Linssen uses contrasting colours, which imparts a more complex and patterned effect.

Nel Linssen's *Bracelet* is on display in Gallery 8 until March 17, 2019

We would love to see your work! Ask your parent or carer to post a photo on Instagram and tag the Art Gallery of South Australia. Or you can email your photo to us at public.programs@artgallery.sa.gov.au

@agsa.adelaide #agsastart

Image

Nel Linssen, The Netherlands, 1935–2016, *Bracelet*, 2011, Amsterdam, paper, 2.0 x 8.0 cm (diam.); Gift of Truus and Joost Daalder through the Art Gallery of South Australia Foundation 2017, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, Courtesy Pieter Nel Linssen, photo: Grant Hancock.

Materials you need

- 3 sheets of A4 paper, in three different colours
- Ruler
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Sticky tape
- Glue stick

Create your own work of art

- 1 To make your folded paper wristband, start by ruling a line 2cm from the long edge of each piece of A4 paper, and a second line 2cm in from the first. Carefully cut along the ruled lines. This will give you 6 strips of coloured paper.
- 2 Glue the ends of two contrasting paper strips together at right angles, so that they make an 'L' shape.
- 3 Fold the bottom strip over the top strip, keeping them at right angles. Crease the fold and repeat, criss-crossing the paper strips over each other in neat, square folds.
- 4 When you reach the end of the first two paper strips, glue another strip to each of the loose ends, overlapping by around 2cm and using a different colour. Continue folding the paper chain.
- 5 As you fold, check the length of your chain. It will be quite stretchy. For a child under 5, four paper strips may be enough. For an older child or an adult, use all six.
- 6 When your chain is long enough to comfortably fit around your hand, glue down the final fold, to secure your chain. Then use sticky tape to join the two ends together, as a loop.
- 7 Try on your wristband!

Take it further

Did you choose colours that match harmoniously – or clashing, contrasting colours? How did this effect the outcome? How could you make it look different?

How do the folds and shadows effect the colours? Does it look different when you move your hands?

Did you expect the paper chain to be so springy and flexible? What else could you make with this technique?

Presented by

